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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 6 (Cancelled)

7.   (New) A card connector comprising: a slider which is longitudinally movably attached to a case forming a card insertion space, said slider being to be pushed by a card which is inserted into said card insertion space, to be moved from a standby position to a pushed position corresponding to a card set position, said slider being resiliently urged at said pushed position in a direction of ejecting the card; and a cam mechanism having functions of locking said slider to said pushed position, and canceling the locked state where said slider is locked to said pushed position,

said cam mechanism has: an engagement pin which is attached to one of said case and said slider; and a cam body disposed on another one of said case and said slider, and comprising a loop groove into which an engagement end of said engagement pin is relatively displacealby fitted,

said loop groove of said cam body comprises: a protruding engagement portion which is to be engaged with said engagement end that has passed through a forward path of said loop groove, thereby locking said slider to said pushed position corresponding to said card set position; an escape path which, when said slider at said pushed position is further pushed, allows said engagement end to escape from a position a of engagement with said engagement portion to a start portion of a return path of said loop groove; and a stepped surface which, when said slider is to be retracted, is engaged with said engagement end that escapes to said return-path start portion, to block said engagement end from reversely moving, thereby retaining said engagement end in said return path, and said engagement end is elastically pressed against a bottom face of said escape path, wherein

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said bottom face of said escape path has an inclined surface of a rising gradient which is directed toward an upper edge of said stepped surface.

8. (New) The card connector according to claim 7, wherein, at said position of said engagement end with said engagement portion, said loop groove is formed at a depth which is equal to a depth of said return-path start portion.

9. (New) The card connector according to claim 7, wherein, at said position of said engagement end with said engagement portion, said loop groove is formed at a depth which is larger than a depth of said return-path start portion.

10. (New) The card connector according to claim 7, wherein said upper edge of said stepped surface is divided into one edge which elongates along a bottom face of said return-path start portion, and another edge of a falling gradient which elongates from an end of said one edge toward a root of said engagement portion, and said inclined surface is divided into one inclined surface of a rising gradient which extends toward said one edge, and another inclined surface of a rising gradient which extends toward said other edge.

11. (New) The card connector according to claim 7, wherein said upper edge of said stepped surface is divided into one edge which elongates along a bottom face of said return-path start portion, and another edge of a falling gradient which elongates from an end of said one edge toward a root of said engagement portion, said inclined surface is divided into one inclined surface of a rising gradient which extends toward said one edge, and another inclined surface of a rising gradient which extends toward said other edge, a base of said other inclined surface crosses said escape path, and a base of said one inclined surface is positioned on a step-like wall face which is opposed to said engagement portion to form said escape path.

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    12. (New) The card connector according to claim 7, wherein said case has a body, and a sheet metal cover which is attached to said body, and a spring piece which is formed by inwardly stamping and raising said cover is in elastic contact with said engagement pin, whereby said engagement end is elastically pressed against said bottom face of said escape path.